

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment the claims under consideration are 1-2, 4-5, 8-10, and 18-22. Claims 11-17 were restricted and withdrawn by the Examiner. Claims 3, 6-7 and 23 are cancelled by the present amendment.

Independent Claims 1 and 18 have been amended hereby to make clear the structure of the brace member of the present invention. Claim 21, formerly independent, has been made dependent to further limit Claim 18. Generally, these claims are now limited to the structure of the brace (or second) member wherein the brace member is astride, i.e., laying on top with a leg on either side, of the main terminal. Support in the original specification can be found at least in the drawings as clearly seen in Fig. 5.

Claims 2, 4-5, 9, 10, and 18-22 have also been amended to more clearly state the invention in structural terms and/or improve their antecedent basis.

The Detailed Action of April 24, 2006 will now be addressed with reference to any subject headings or section numbers contained therein.

Drawings

The drawings stand objected to for not showing the conductive cable as specified in the previous claims. As the conductive cable is a member which the present invention attaches to and is not part of the inventive structure itself, the cable was removed as a limitation of the claims. Therefore, the present objection has been obviated.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112

Claim 1 stands rejected under §112, second paragraph. The complained of lack of antecedent basis and incomplete sentence structure have been cured by the present amendment.

Claims 3-5 stand rejected under §112, second paragraph. Claim 3 has been cancelled hereby. Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to obviate the rejection.

Claims 8-10, 18, 21 and 23 stand rejected under §112, second paragraph as lacking in clarity. Applicants believe any previous lack of clarity has been cured by the present amendment.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

All Claims (1-23) stand rejected at page 4 of the Detailed Action as obvious over Felden et al., US 6,556,111 (hereinafter “Felden”) in view of Klein et al. US 3,534,195, (hereinafter “Klein”). Applicants respectfully traverse in view of the amendments and remarks herein.

Generally, per the above discussion, the present Independent claims 1 and 18 have been amended to clearly specify that the brace member lies astride the main terminal member. Astride means “on or above with one leg on each side of” as set forth in *Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary*, Merriam Webster, 1989, page 111, attached hereto as Appendix A. Neither of the cited references shows or suggests such a structural arrangement.

Applicants further suggest that the cited references are not properly combinable to teach the present invention. In Klein, the supposed ‘brace’ (tabs 110) is merely taught as having a positioning function and not a torque resistance function, see col. 4, line 19. This is especially evident because the terminal of Klein is connected only to a conducting braid 114 and is unconcerned with problems of torque on the bimetal as in the present invention. Likewise Felden gives no hint of torque problems being a concern in its construction. Thus, the suggestion for the combination does not come from the references themselves. Therefore they are not a proper combination to make a *prima facie* case.

Claims 7 and 23 stand rejected per page 7 of the Detailed Action. These claims have been cancelled hereby. Accordingly, the rejection has been obviated.

Conclusion

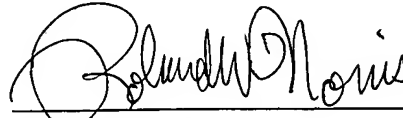
For all the foregoing reasons it is respectfully submitted that all claims under consideration have been placed in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Applicants have intended to be fully responsive herein to the Office Action. If any issues remain the Examiner is invited to call Applicants’ undersigned attorney at the listed number.

Applicants respectfully request a one month extension of time for replying to the Office Action of April 24, 2006. A separate Petition for One Month Extension of Time is enclosed to facilitate payment of petition fees.

Favorable consideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Roland W. Norris", is written over a horizontal line.

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Amendment A
10/8/122
CFC-166

Appendix

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asthma o at 111

assumption, assumption
the taking up
of a thing
3: the act of laying
of power 4: as
something is true
ostulate, or notum
debts
as one's own
e claims: ASSUMING

action of assuring: as
real property; also
Brit: INSURANCE
being certain in the
of mind or manner
also: excessive selling
that inspires (or
s goodwill) syn see

assure, fr. MF *assurer*
1: to make safe
o give confidence to
NCE 4: to inform
certain the coming
accuracy) syn see

by certainty or secu-
URED (an ~ dancer)
to the certainty
ir-ad-lē, -shū(ā)rd

ur-ō(ā)r n (1607)

prp. of *assurere* to
(578): moving up

an ancient Semitic
language of the Av

alist in Assyriology
of the history, lan-
lonia — *As-syri-ol*

fr. verbs in *-azein*

the starboard side

enician goddess of

stable or steady
definite position or
cism \-stat-ə-si-

+ *statos* standing
47): a radioactive
with helium nuclei
table

c aster, *aster* star
all-blooming (early
genera) with often
ular and ray flows
a system of related
ne at either end of

ting partial resem-
r)

t, fem. of *asterias*
w asterism
biting asterism (~

Gk *asteriskos*, lit.
used in printing
e omission of let-
ed linguistic form

sein to arrange in
TELLATION: b: o
ted by some crys-
nmitted light (as

2: at or toward

ster-, *aster* (1802)
and Jupiter with
2: STARFISH --

esembling a star

that affects more
owing and dwarf

henes weak, fr. o-
DEBILITY
or exhibiting as-

cak + E- o- +
lies beneath the
o yield readily to

asthma \az-mā, Brit 'es- n [ME *asma*, fr. ML, modif. of Gk *asthria*;
to L *anima* — more at ANIMATE] (14c): a condition often of aller-
gic origin that is marked by continuous or paroxysmal labored breath-
ing accompanied by wheezing, by a sense of constriction in the chest,
often by attacks of coughing or gasping — *asth-mat-ic* \az-mat-ik,
-adj or n — *asth-mat-ic-al-ly* \-i-k(ə)-lē adv
ough conj (13c): ASIF
-mat-ic \as-tig-mat-ik/ adj [a- + Gk *stigmat-*, *stigma* mark]
1: affected with, relating to, or correcting astigmatism
2: showing incapacity for observation or discrimination (an ~ fanat-
ic disregard for the facts — N. Y. Herald Tribune) — *astigmatic-n*
-matism \a-stig-ma-tiz-əm/ n (1849) 1: a defect of an optical
system (as a lens) in consequence of which rays from a point fail to
focus in a focal point resulting in a blurred and imperfect image 2: a
defect of vision due to astigmatism of the refractive system of the eye
3: to cornal irregularity 3: distorted understanding suggestive
of the blurred vision of an astigmatic person
-star/ adj (1823) 1: exhibiting activity 2: being out of bed

tr prep (14c) 1: AS FOR, ABOUT (at a loss as to how to explain the
word). 2: ACCORDING TO, BY (graded as to size and color)
-stān-ēd/ adj [ME, fr. pp. of *astonen*] (14c) 1 *archaic*
described briefly of the power to act: DAZED 2 *archaic*: filled with
astonishment or dismay
-stān-ish- v/ [prob. fr. earlier *astony* (fr. ME *astonen*, *as-*
-tonen, fr. OF *estoner*, fr. — assumed — VL *extonare*, fr. L *ex-* + *tonare*
(thunder) + *-ish* (as in *abolish*) — more at THUNDER] (1535) 1 obs
to strike with sudden fear 2: to strike with sudden and usu. great
fear or surprise syn see SURPRISE

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astrolabe

as-tro-naut \as-trō-nōt, -nāt/ n [*astr-* + *-naut* (as in *aeronaut*)] (1929)
: a person who travels beyond the earth's atmosphere; also: a trainee
for spaceflight

as-tro-nau-tics \as-trō-nōt-iks, -nāt- n pl but sing or pl in constr (1928)
1: the science of the construction and operation of vehicles for travel
in space beyond the earth's atmosphere 2: navigation in space be-
yond the earth's atmosphere — *as-tro-nau-tic* \-ik/ or *as-tro-nau-tic-al*
\-i-kəl/ adj — *as-tro-nau-tic-al-ly* \-i-k(ə)-lē adv

as-tro-nav-ig-a-tion \as-trō-nav-ə-gā-shən/ n (1942): CELESTIAL NAVI-
GATION

as-tro-nom-er \ə-strō-nə-mər/ n (14c): one who is skilled in astronomy
or who makes observations of celestial phenomena

as-tro-nom-i-cal \as-trō-nām-i-kəl/ also *as-tro-nom-ic* \-ik/ adj (1556) 1
: of or relating to astronomy 2: enormously or inconceivably large
(~ numbers) — *as-tro-nom-i-cal-ly* \-i-k(ə)-lē adv

astronomical unit n (1903): a unit of length used in astronomy equal to
the mean distance of the earth from the sun or about 93 million miles
(150 million kilometers)

as-tro-nom-y \ə-strō-nə-mē/ n, pl -mies [ME *astronomie*, fr. OF, fr. L
astronomia, fr. Gk, fr. *astr-* + *-nomia* -nomy] (13c) 1: the science of
the celestial bodies and of their magnitudes, motions, and constitution
2: a treatise on astronomy

as-tro-pho-to-gra-phy \as-trō-fō-tā-g-rā-fē/ n [ISV] (ca. 1858): pho-
tography as used in astronomical investigations

as-tro-physics \as-trō-fiz-iks/ n pl but sing or pl in constr [ISV] (1890)
: a branch of astronomy dealing with the physical and chemical consti-
tution of celestial matter — *as-tro-physics-al* \-i-kəl/ adj — *as-tro-physics-
-ist* \-fiz-(ə)-sist/ n

as-tute \ə-st(y)ūt, a- adj [L *astutus*, fr. *astus* craft] (ca. 1611): having
or showing shrewdness and perspicacity (an ~ observer) (~ remarks);
also: CRAFTY, WILY syn see SHREWD — *as-tute-ly* adv — *as-tute-ness* n

As-ty-a-nax \ə-stī-ə-naks/ n [GK]: a son of Hector and Andromache
hurled by the Greeks from the walls of Troy

as-un-der \ə-sən-dər/ adv or adj (14c) 1: into parts (torn ~) 2
: apart from each other in position (wide ~)

as-warm \ə-swō(ə)r-m/ adj (1868): filled to overflowing: SWARMING
(streets ~ with people)

as well as conj (14c): and in addition: AND (brave as well as loyal)
as well as prep (15c): in addition to: BESIDES (the coach, as well as the
team, is ready)

as-wirl \ə-swō(ə)r-əl/ adj (1877): being in a swirl: SWIRLING

as-woon \ə-swūn/ adj (14c): being in a swoon: DAZED

as-ylum \ə-si-ləm/ n [ME, fr. L, fr. Gk *asylon*, neut. of *asylōs* inviolable,
fr. *a-* + *syllōn* right of seizure] (14c) 1: an inviolable place of refuge
and protection giving shelter to criminals and debtors: SANCTUARY 2
: a place of retreat and security: SHELTER 3 a: the protection or
inviolability afforded by an asylum: REFUGE b: protection from
arrest and extradition given esp. to political refugees by a nation or by
an embassy or other agency enjoying diplomatic immunity 4: an
institution for the relief or care of the destitute or afflicted and esp. the
insane

asym-met-ri-cal \ə-sə-me-tri-kəl/ or *asym-met-ric* \-trik/ adj [Gk *asym-*
metria lack of proportion, fr. *asymmetros* ill-proportioned, fr. *a-* +
symmetros symmetrical] (1690) 1: not symmetrical 2: character-
ized by being bonded to different atoms or groups — *asym-met-ri-cal-ly*
\-tri-k(ə)-lē adv — *asym-met-ry* \-tri-k(ə)-lē n

asymptom-at-ic \ə-sim(p)-tə-mat-ik/ adj (1927): presenting no symp-
toms of disease — *asymptom-at-ic-al-ly* \-i-k(ə)-lē adv

as-ymptote \ə-səm(p)-tōt/ n [prob. fr. (as-
sumed) NL *asymptotus*, fr. Gk *asymptōtos* not
meeting, fr. *a-* + *symptein* to meet — more at
SYMPTOM] (1656): a straight line associated
with a curve such that as a point moves along an
infinite branch of the curve the distance from
the point to the line approaches zero and the
slope of the curve at the point approaches the
slope of the line — *as-ymptot-ic* \ə-səm(p)-tāt-
ik/ adj — *as-ymptot-ic-al-ly* \-i-k(ə)-lē adv

asyn-ap-sis \ə-sə-nap-sis/ n, pl -ap-ses \-sēz/
[NL *a-* + *synapsis*] (1930): failure of pairing of
homologous chromosomes in meiosis

asyn-chro-nous \ə-sin-k-rə-nəs, -sīn-/ adj
(1748): not synchronous — *asyn-chro-nous-ly* *asymptotes* to the
hyperbola

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\ə/ about \ʌ/ kitten, F table \ɔr/ further \ə/ ash \ā/ ace \ā/ cot, cart
\ə/ out \ch/ chin \el/ bet \ē/ easy \g/ go \i/ hit \i/ ice \j/ job
\ŋ/ sing \ŋ/ go \ŋ/ law \ŋ/ boy \th/ thin \th/ the \ū/ loot \ū/ foot
\ʌ/ yet \zh/ vision \ā, ʃ, c, œ, u, ū, ʏ/ see Guide to Pronunciation